

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
CHAIRPERSON RYAN BONGARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Silkaitis, Foulkes, Bongard, Muenz, Lencioni, Gehm, Pietryla, Wirball, Bessner

Absent: Weber

3. ADMINISTRATIVE

4. OMNIBUS VOTE

Items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member/citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda.

None.

5. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Approving the Bike and Pedestrian Plan and Adopting the St. Charles Complete Streets Policy.

Presented by Chris Gottlieb and Jacqueline Henrickson and Josie Willman of Civiltech, Inc.

Aldr. Wirball thanked the team for the presentation and stated he is excited to get this started. He then asked about changing the timing of traffic lights; has there been any consideration for people who are visually impaired in our community? Mr. Gottlieb stated yes, intersection modification includes audio signals. Aldr. Wirball then asked if this will be a conversation we are going to have at the upcoming Budget Meeting in January for funding? City Administrator McGuire stated some of these items will be implemented as we do street construction projects and will be tied into those vs. tackling some of the bigger scale projects.

Aldr. Wirball stated a specific project is the Sidewalk Gap Program which is important for the older sections of the community, and is a priority for him to get budgeted for next year. Aldr. Wirball asked if the Sidewalk Gap Program will be implemented with street reconstruction, or will it depend on the need? Mr. Gottlieb stated that currently

the street replacement and sidewalk gap filling will go at the same time, so if we are redoing a street, we will fill in the gaps. If we are reconstructing a street that has no sidewalk, we will investigate if it is feasible and desirable to add a sidewalk. At this time, we do not have a dedicated, stand-alone gap program but that is something we could look into. Aldr. Wirball stated he feels we really need a dedicated sidewalk gap program and have dedicated funding for it; if we are going to wait for a street to be redone, it could be 30 years and he would like to discuss this at the Budget Workshop.

City Administrator McGuire stated we will be discussing a comprehensive list of all of our capital needs, sidewalks being one of those items. She reminded Council that the City's resources are not infinite and we have to prioritize items as we go through them. City Administrator McGuire reiterated we had discussions about utility rates and funding those at the appropriate level; currently we are having to have discussions about potentially subsidizing some of our utilities through general funds and that reduces programs when we have to use those funds for infrastructure needs vs. some of the things that aren't replacement at this point.

Aldr. Wirball stated that he understood and respected City Administrator McGuire's comments, but that the City just passed the sales tax increase where we are pulling in \$4.4 million more for the streets, so he and his constituents have an expectation that this will be addressed in a timely manner.

City Administrator McGuire stated that \$4.4 million was to get us back to a street replacement cycle because we were so far behind, so we are not doing above and beyond, it's just putting us back in a recurring street replacement program.

Aldr. Pietryla thanked the team for their work; he also stated he agreed with the Gap Program. He inquired about the crosswalk by Kava Diem – he likes the idea, but he recalls that when people asked for a crosswalk there it was always shot down. Aldr. Pietryla stated he wants it to happen, but what's changed? Mr. Gottlieb stated he won't say right away that we will do it, we have to do an engineering study; as Ms. Henrickson stated, the plan is ideas and recommendations, so we will have to do a more detailed study to make sure we aren't choosing an area that is too fast or with visibility that doesn't work and then we put pedestrians in harms way. If you give pedestrians a raised walk like that, they automatically think it's safe so we want to make sure it is in fact safe.

Aldr. Lencioni stated he needs this broken out in "chunks" rather than ala carte. The provided matrix has too many things to pick from. He asked if the team can put together a cohesive plans with options and costs with funding sources to go with it. Aldr. Lencioni said if he were to ask, is there a cost for this right now? Mr. Gottlieb stated that no, we do not have a cost for the entire program; it's going along with roadway programs which is the most efficient way of doing it. If we are already building a roadway to add lanes, reduce lanes or add side paths and we will have a

contractor and current pricing, so we don't have a total price because it will depend on how we do it. Aldr. Lencioni stated before he would even consider doing something like this, he would need some sort of a diagram level implementation plan.

Aldr. Silkaitis thanked the team for the plan and he noted that some proposals eliminate parking on streets, one of them being Third Street. That can be a problem for residents on that street; have we done a survey to ask residents what they think about that? Mr. Gottlieb stated that we have not gotten that far yet; there is a long way to go before we get to Third Street, but before we would eliminate parking, we would do a survey to see if it would negatively impact the neighborhood.

Aldr. Silkaitis asked that since we are considering removing parking spots, does this take into account the parking study? City Administrator McGuire stated there are several references within this study that make recommendations, however, this plan needs to be looked at in combination with the parking study which is part of the rationale of doing these in close proximity to make them work together.

Aldr. Bessner thanked the committee and stated he thinks it is a great plan, and he had three questions; are the costs listed the estimated cost of that actual project, or are they in line with resurfacing or reconstruction of roadways? Ms. Henrickson stated for the pavement marking projects, if engineering can be done in-house, the cost only reflects construction and materials, but for some of the larger scale projects that would involve construction engineering, that cost is not included. Aldr. Bessner asked if a bump out could be done simply as a stand-alone project or if it had to be tied into road construction? Mr. Gottlieb stated that a bump out could be done without redoing the whole street. Aldr. Bessner stated he liked the shared road concept, but are there legalities involved with bikes being able to maneuver through the entire street? Ms. Henrickson stated per state law, bicyclists have the right-of-way. Aldr. Bessner asked if the engineering study involves easements that are available? Mr. Gottlieb stated it depends on the specific project; it might be easements, a traffic study or looking at parking and determining the effects to the neighborhood.

Aldr. Muenz thanked the committee for the presentation; she also thanked staff for the bike lanes that have been installed on Fox Chase, they are a great addition. Aldr. Muenz asked about the flashing lights that are discussed in the plan on page 55 – are these plans coordinated with law enforcement as well? It is a common theme that we can't get motorists to stop at the lights for our youth pedestrians trying to cross to get to and from school. If we can't get them to work here, how feasible is it to put them in other places in the City? Mr. Gottlieb stated before we implemented at any crossing, we would discuss with the Police Dept. Aldr. Muenz asked if community education can be built into this to get motorists to buy in to sharing the road? Mr. Gottlieb stated that once people start seeing more bicyclists and pedestrians, they will get used to it and start behaving in a certain way, much like they do on Third Street in Geneva.

Aldr. Gehm thanked everyone who participated in this and asked what has been a general time frame for other municipalities to complete something like this? Ms. Henrickson stated in general, 10 to 20 years. Aldr. Gehm stated he appreciated that, it helps to understand this because it's a tremendous amount of work and would benefit all of our constituents. Aldr. Gehm thinks all of our school crossing areas are a top priority so kids can ride their bikes safely.

Aldr. Wirball asked if we approve the Complete Streets Policy tonight, what's next? Mr. Gottlieb stated we look at our street program every year through the guidelines of the Complete Streets Policy to see if there are opportunities to implement other things that are in this plan. For example, Fox Chase had bicycle lanes shown in the plan; we resurfaced a portion of that road this year and we were able to get the bicycle lanes implemented. We will take the recommendations in the Complete Streets Policy and use that to guide our roadway program in the future. Aldr. Wirball stated that besides grants, we need funding to implement what we just studies; this is something for the elected body to discuss in January.

Chairman Bongard asked if there was an opportunity as we look at streets to start and factor this plan in as we try to pay for things moving forward? Mr. Suhr stated yes, absolutely; staff wanted to gauge interest and there is no doubt that there is interest to do this. I'd like to paint a picture of what this practically looks like for us in Year 1 – we are going to develop a plan for you to consider over budget discussions next year. It will probably include a capital project that requires engineering for a year before we get to construction; it will probably have an increase in our operational budget to handle things like a sidewalk gap program and low hanging fruit projects. We are definitely going after grants, so staff may make a recommendation to hire a consultant to go after money. After that, Council will be able to give us feedback; I think that is the practical way to do this.

Aldr. Pietryla asked if staff could be mindful on the agendas or emails to put a reminder on items that have to do with this plan? Mr. Gottlieb stated yes, we can do that.

Aldr. Lencioni reiterated that he would like to see specific goals; he is hearing that we are going to be opportunistic, but goals are achievable and date bound with someone having responsibility. He would like to see direction with goals and phasing coming out of this so we have something to hold ourselves accountable to. Mr. Gottlieb stated we will look into how we can best prioritize goals that are measurable.

Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Pietryla to approve Item 5.A.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Aldr. Silkaitis; Aldr. Foulkes; Aldr. Muenz; Aldr. Lencioni; Aldr. Gehm; Aldr. Pietryla; Aldr. Wirball; Aldr. Bessner **Nays:** None. Chairperson Bongard did not vote as chair. **Motion Carried.**

B. Recommendation to approve a Resolution Awarding the Bid for Sanitary Sewer Lining Program.

Presented by Tim Wilson.

Aldr. Wirball asked if this process is invasive? Will be notifying residents in the area? Mr. Wilson stated it is non-invasive and we will be sending a letter to the homes in the area and on the day of, there will be signs in the area and the contractor puts a door hanger on resident's doors.

Aldr. Foulkes asked if we have any concerns with their bid being significantly lower and Mr. Wilson stated no, we have worked with all five contractors and all of them are qualified to handle this work.

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Gehm to approve Item 5.B.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Aldr. Silkaitis; Aldr. Foulkes; Aldr. Muenz; Aldr. Lencioni; Aldr. Gehm; Aldr. Pietryla; Aldr. Wirball; Aldr. Bessner **Nays:** None. Chairperson Bongard did not vote as chair. **Motion Carried.**

C. Presentation of First Street Plaza Construction Project.

Presented by Chris Adesso.

Aldr. Foulkes thanked Chris for the presentation and asked if supplies are coming in as expected and how is the budget doing? Mr. Adesso stated most of the construction materials are arriving on time; we are experiencing extended lead times on some of the technology features with electronic components. However, we do anticipate getting the project substantially complete and adding those components when they arrive. In regard to the budget, there have been two change orders on the project, both were instigated by the City; one was a customer service response to the businesses to address dirty windows on some of the businesses, so there was a very small change order for the contractor to have someone come in and clean some windows if and when they get dirty.

The second change order was in regard to the IDOT permit. In order for the contractor to work in the right-of-way, someone needs to take maintenance of traffic. We did not bid to have anyone take maintenance of traffic because we weren't sure of the timing, so we had to do a \$600 change order for that. The contractor has worked with the City very well to balance the budget. They also bid the project anticipating surprises, so while we weren't anticipating some of these things, they were.

Aldr. Pietryla asked if we are going to be able to open a gateway once the concrete is poured so people don't have to walk all the way around? Mr. Adesso stated that may happen down the road but this is ultimately the contractor's site and if they choose to open the area, they will want it to be close to 100% done, we certainly don't want anyone to get hurt. We have been having conversations with them so they are cognizant of it.

City Administrator McGuire stated that we have been having conversations with both ZaZa's and Le Mesa because if that path is opened up, they will have to relocate several of their tables to allow clearance there.

Aldr. Bessner asked if we are working at IDOT's pace? Mr. Adesso stated we are not just sitting back waiting for IDOT, our consultant has been following up with them, but he doesn't think this is abnormal; IDOT permitting can take a long time – it goes through three different divisions. Aldr. Bessner asked if the elevation is higher than what it was before, Mr. Adesso stated it is about the same as it was before, but there are some areas that are slightly higher to get the drainage right. It definitely is higher toward the north and east by the old Manor restaurant. Aldr. Bessner then asked if this will be usable toward November/December? Mr. Adesso stated we are working really hard to get it as far along as we can with the goal of having it complete by the end of the year, but as was mentioned earlier, there will be components missing. We are hopeful that we will be able to have Holiday celebrations if possible, but that can't be answered yet; it is dependent on weather and schedules. Everyone knows it is a priority and we are working toward the same goal.

Aldr. Wirball asked if the site is secure now or if we have had any more security issues; Mr. Adesso stated while people were curious in the beginning, they have been figuring it out very well.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Anderson made a comment regarding the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians; the thought came that the City (either Community Development or Police) should be doing education, both for bicyclists/pedestrians and motorists on the road. Connectivity is going to be crucial because it connects people walking to First Street, so thank you for all your hard work on this.

7. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, STAFF OR CITIZENS

Aldr. Muenz stated that there are still volunteer opportunities for Scarecrow Fest if anyone is interested, especially on Sunday. She also stated that she participated the IL Municipal League conference this weekend and it was a really good opportunity for newly elected officials.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Pietryla to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis; Ald. Foulkes; Ald. Muenz; Ald. Lencioni; Ald. Gehm; Ald. Pietryla; Ald. Wirball; Ald. Bessner **Nays:** None. Chairperson Bongard did not vote as chair. **Motion Carried.**

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